Key Stage 4 Geography – Uganda case study

Notes for teachers

At a glance

Economic development in low income countries leads to significant social, environmental and cultural change.

One scheme in Uganda is to increase electricity generation by building more hydroelectric dams. The work of researchers at The University of Oxford’s Interdisciplinary Centre for Conservation Science (ICCS) aims to ensure that new developments such as this not only ‘do no harm’, but actively bring benefit to both the environment and local communities.

In this activity students use a range of resources to build a case study about the positive and negative impacts of this scheme.

Learning Outcomes

- Students learn about the environmental and social effects of an economic development initiative in a LIC.
- Students write a case study looking at the positive and negative impacts

Each group of students will need

- Copy of student worksheet
- Access to the internet

https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/content/conserving-nature
Possible Lesson Activities

1. Starter activity
   - Show the class some photographs of typical Ugandan scenes. These should include a range of urban and rural images to reflect the geography and economy of the country. Some good examples can be found in the weblink below.
   - As you show the images, ask students to write down their thoughts on what the images show about the country and its population. Share these as a class.

2. Main activity: Dams in Uganda
   - Give each student a copy of the student worksheet. Ask them to read through the information.
   - In order to explain more about biodiversity and conservation, show the class the animation 'Conserving nature'.
   - Set them their task: to write a case study about the impacts of building new hydroelectric dams in Uganda.
   - Remind them that they should include arguments for and against in terms of the environment and the quality of life.
   - Students will need access to the internet to carry out research to gather information for their case study. They can produce this as an essay, computer presentation or poster.

3. Plenary
   - Initiate a discussion with the class. Based on their research, what is their personal opinion? Should Uganda build more hydroelectric dams? You could take a vote as a class and invite some students to explain their opinions with their reasoning.

Weblinks

Images of Uganda


Conserving Nature animation

https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/content/conserving-nature

Research webpage: Bujagali hydropower project

www.bujagali-energy.com

Research webpage: Ecotourism or hydroelectricity in Uganda?


Research video: Arguments against a dam in Uganda

http://www.bujagali-energy.com/bujagali_environmentalResponsibility1.htm